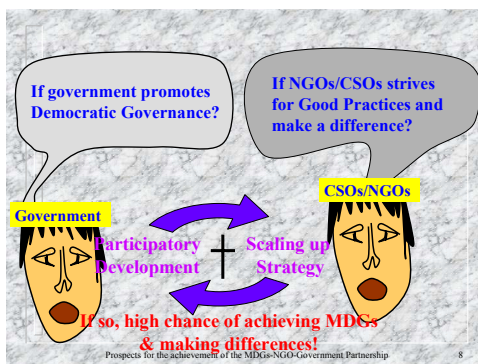
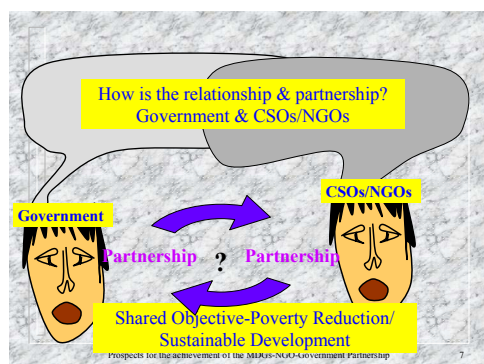
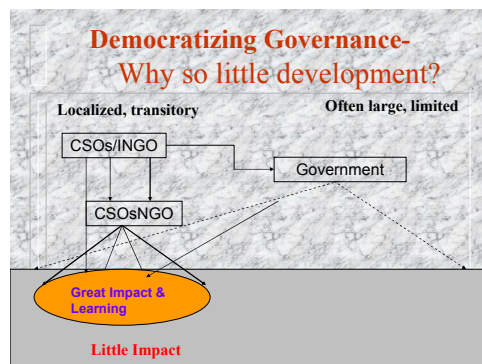
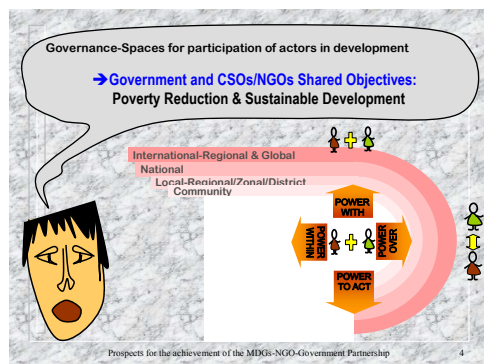
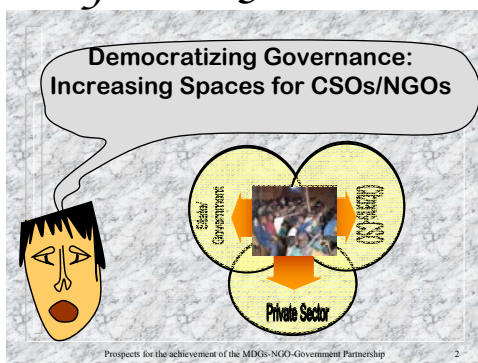


Prospects for the achievement of the MDGs: Democratic Governance as critical factor for better development

Scaling up Good Practices: The case of ActionAid initiated Alternative Basic Education

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Analytical Framework



Prospects for the achievement of the MDGs: Partnership between NGOs/CSOs and Government

Scaling up NGOs' Good Practice-The case of ActionAid initiated Alternative Basic Education

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Abstract

Scaling up—the expansion of impact beyond the local level—has to be an important concern for NGOs and development actors to bring about wider impact and make a difference. NGOs often test out new approaches and start small. Despite their increased number, their enhanced understanding of the issues of poverty and growing engagement in a wider range of development activities, so far, they could not bring about a far reaching impact and make a difference. Even when their initiatives become successful, they usually remain small, especially compared to the scale of the challenges of poverty. Their success only becomes sustainable or reaches significant scale if they influence national development.

*Prospects for the attainment of MDGs through scaling up 'Good Practices & Working in Partnership':
The case of AAE-initiated ABE-Girma B. Hailu*

Increasing number of national and international NGOs with wide range of development activities are taking part in the country's development endeavors. However, impacts of their intervention are, by and large, limited to their project areas and experiences of scaling up NGOs' good practice and their studies are very limited. Despite a laudable chorus calling for NGOs to scale up their effective initiatives, achievements are conspicuously small. Thus, studying successful scaling up practices and analysis of their strategies is essential to draw up lessons and widening development impacts.

Though various development actors continued their effort to address development problems, the humbling observation indicates that little is achieved, and significant portions of society do not yet have accessed to and benefited from basic services. The sluggish expansion of primary education through the conventional approach could not catch up the growing demand for basic education, let alone achieving the MDG of attaining UPE by 2015 and gender equity by 2005. This situation calls for nothing less than critical policy measures.

In recognition of the problem, various responses have been exhibited from policy makers and development actors. Among the responses was the introduction of Alternative basic education (ABE) by ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE). The initiative, alternative approach to basic education, has gradually evolved over the years to become strategically important undertaking in AAE. As seen in the study, it started small as a pilot project, and reached to the stage where it is incorporated in the mainstream national and regional education sector development programmes. Though the contribution of this innovative approach to the national level net and gross enrollment is not yet reported, it is assumed to be higher than 10%. Some district based reports indicate that the alternative approach accounts to more than 25% to the enrollment rate.

The quality of the relationship and mutual trust between AAE and government is one critical factor for the success. Fowler points out that NGOs impact is more determined by their relation with government and other actors than the volume of their resources (Fowler, 1991). AAE's achievement in scaling up the model and influencing policy provision is a concrete example, as it primarily resulted from the harmonious relationship with government and the wider NGO sector, at various levels. Clark (1991) also pointed that if government has a positive agenda on what NGOs have shown impact, it is likely that they enter into strong partnership, and thus smoothen and speed up scaling up efforts.

This research broadly indicates that there are prospects for scaling up good practices and make a difference. Projections indicate that many developing countries are much behind achieving the MDGs. As seen in this study, NGOs are in better position to test out new development initiatives. Unless those tested good-practices are scaled up by major actors and ultimately incorporated in the mainstream policy framework, they remain as islands of success and 'a drop in the ocean'. NGOs do have great role in contributing innovations and 'good practices' that can significantly contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Correspondingly, government, particularly policy makers should promote participatory development which sounds best alternate for the achievement of MDGs and ensuring effective sustainable development.